

April 14, 1999

Food and Drug Administration

Docket No. 98N-1038

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), FDA

5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061

Rockville, MD 20852

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To Whom it May Concern:

Please register this letter of comment regarding the labeling of irradiated foods. As a consumer and citizen of the United States, I want conspicuous, prominent and permanent labeling of irradiated foods to be mandated by FDA.

I am outraged at the suggestion that a term such as cold pasteurization should be used instead of irradiation on irradiated food. This is a semantics game. The word is irradiation, and it should be used rather than try to dupe the buying public. I am also outraged that FDA has already allowed the size of the radura and labeling to be reduced. FDA has already determined "that irradiation is a form of processing that can produce significant changes in certain characteristics of a food, such as the taste, smell, and texture or holding properties, in a manner that is not obvious to the consumer in the absence of labeling."

I demand that FDA approve mandatory, clear labeling of irradiated foods by using the terms "Treated with radiation," or "Treated by irradiation." I demand that this notification be clearly visible on foods and that labeling requirements not be allowed to expire in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


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